UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.241/32
10 March 1995

Original: ENGLISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR
THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Seventh session
Nairobi, 7-18 August 1995
Agenda item 1

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Secretariat

Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Preparation for the Conference of the Parties
3. Urgent action for Africa and action taken in other regions
4. Status of signature and ratification of the Convention
5. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
6. Adoption of the provisional agenda for the eighth session
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventh session

GE.95-61161

Annotations to the agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

By its resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994, the General Assembly decided that the Committee should hold its seventh session in Nairobi, from 7 to 18 August 1995. Arrangements have been made for the session to be held at UNEP Headquarters.

At the sixth session held in New York, 9-20 January 1995, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda for the seventh session, as contained in Appendix IV of the Report of the Sixth Session (Document A/50/74). The provisional agenda is submitted for adoption.

A list of documents for the session and previous documents of relevance is contained in Annex I. A tentative schedule of work is provided in Annex II.

The session will be opened by the Chairman of the Committee at 15:00 p.m., on 7 August. The Plenary will hear statements from representatives of INCD member countries, Heads of UN Agencies and the Chairman of the Committee. After these statements, the Executive Secretary will introduce the documents prepared by the Secretariat.

The Bureau will meet, prior to the opening of the session, at 10:00 a.m., on 7 August.

2. Preparation for the Conference of the Parties

This agenda item refers to issues which require a decision at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, or soon thereafter, to ensure its smooth functioning. In this connection, the INCD adopted, at the sixth session, resolution 6/1 on the organization and programme of work for the interim period. Pursuant to paragraph 1 of the resolution, two working groups were established with a mandate to carry out the preparatory work in connection with these issues. The issues to be addressed by the working groups at the seventh session are set out below.

Working Group One Issues:

(a) *To initiate measures relating to the identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism to promote actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources, including its operational modalities*: Article 21, paragraph 5, of the Convention provides that "the Conference of the Parties shall identify, at its first ordinary session, an organization to house the Global Mechanism". Paragraph 6 of the same Article provides that "the Conference of the Parties shall, at its first session, make appropriate arrangements with the organization it has identified to house the Global Mechanism for the administrative operations of such Mechanism...". The working group will have before it document A/AC.241/33 compiling responses to the Chairman's letter to potential host organizations.

(b) *To make recommendations for the designation by the Conference of the Parties of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning*: Article 23, paragraph 3, of the Convention provides that "the Conference of the Parties, at its first session, shall designate a Permanent Secretariat and make arrangements for its functioning". The working group will have before it document A/AC.241/34 providing suggestions on how to approach this matter in light of recent experience of the Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity, as well as other relevant factors.

(c) *Financial rules*: Article 22, paragraph (2)(e) of the Convention provides that the Conference of the Parties shall "agree upon and adopt... financial rules for itself and any subsidiary bodies". The working group will have before it document A/AC.241/35 outlining the various considerations to be taken into account in considering this issue and the possible options.

(d) *Programme and Budget*: Article 22, paragraph (2)(g) provides that the Conference of the Parties shall "approve a programme and budget for its activities, including those of its subsidiary bodies, and undertake necessary arrangements for their financing". The working group will have before it document A/AC.241/36 outlining general considerations which the group may wish to take into account in reviewing this matter. In view of the significant period of time left before the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the group may wish to examine this issue only in general terms at this early stage. The discussions will naturally become more focussed as the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties approaches.

While the resolution on the programme of work for the interim period treated "financial rules" and "programme and budget" as a single item, for reasons of conveniance these issues are presented here and in the documentation as two separate items.

Working Group Two Issues:

(a) *Organization of scientific and technological cooperation, in particular the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology, the establishment and maintenance of a roster of independant experts, and the terms of reference and modalities of work of any ad hoc panels that the Conference of the Parties may decide to appoint*: Article 24, paragraph 1 of the Convention provides that the Conference of the Parties "shall decide, at its first session, on the terms of reference of the Committee". Articles 24 and 25 also contain indications concerning the modalities of the Committee's activities. The group will have before it document A/AC.241/37 containing background information. Furthermore, the Chairman of the Committee will present concrete proposals early in the session.

(b) *Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties*: Article 22 paragraph (3) of the Convention provides that "the Conference of the Parties shall, at its first session, adopt its own rules of procedure, by consensus...". The group will have before it document A/AC.241/38 providing a draft set of rules of procedure that could be of assistance to the group in discussing this item. The draft rules are modelled, to a large extent, on rules of procedure of related conventions. However, they have been adapted to the particular needs of this Convention.

(c) *Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation, as well as measures taken by Member States and international and other relevant organizations*: Article 26 of the Convention provides that each Party shall communicate to the Conference of the Parties... reports on measures which it has taken for the implementation of the Convention" and that "the Conference of the Parties shall determine the timetable for submission and the format of such reports". Article 22, paragraph (2), provides that the Conference of the Parties "shall regularly review the implementation of the Convention and the functioning of its institutional arrangements..." The working group will have before it document A/AC.241/39 presenting a preliminary analysis of the main questions arising from this agenda item.

It was decided at the sixth session that consideration by working group II of (a) procedures to resolve questions on implementation and (b) draft annexes on conciliation and arbitration would begin at the eighth session.

3. Urgent action for Africa and action taken in other regions

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of resolution 6/1, the Plenary is to examine the issue of the facilitation of the urgent action for Africa through the exchange of information and the review of progress made thereon and the promotion of action in other regions.

Member States already reported at the signing ceremony, in October 1994, and at the sixth session, in January 1995, on measures they are taking or plan to take in implementation of the resolution on urgent action for Africa. Paragraph 6 of resolution 6/1 on the programme of work for the interim period requested "INCD Members, United Nations programmes and agencies, as well as relevant intergovernmental organizations, to submit to the Secretariat updated reports on measures taken or planned for the implementation of the urgent action for Africa and action in other regions...". The resolution further requested the Secretariat to prepare a compilation of such reports for the seventh session. The Committee will have before it document A/AC.241/40 compiling information provided at the sixth session and updated reports submitted to the Secretariat.

The Executive Secretary will report on cooperation with relevant bodies or agencies and coordination with other conventions.

4. Status of signature and ratification of the Convention

The Executive Secretary will present a status report on this item. The Committee may wish to consider whether any action is required to promote signature and ratification.

5. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds

The Committee will have before it document A/AC.241/41 submitted by the Secretariat indicating the present status and funding needs of the Special Voluntary Fund to support the participation of developing countries, and the Trust Fund for the negotiating process.

6. Adoption of the provisional agenda for the eighth session

The provisional agenda for the eighth session will be attached to the report of the seventh session.

7. Adoption of the report of the session

A draft report on the work of the session will be presented for consideration by the Committee, in accordance with established practice.

ANNEX I

List of documents for the seventh session of the Committee

A/AC.241/32	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
A/AC.241/33	Identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism
A/AC.241/34	Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning
A/AC.241/35	Financial rules
A/AC.241/36	Programme and budget
A/AC.241/37	Scientific and technical cooperation
A/AC.241/38	Draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/39	Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation
A/AC.241/40	Implementation of urgent action for Africa and action in other regions: compilation of information
A/AC.241/41	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/9/Add.9	List of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation

Other documents of relevance

Secretariat documents:

A/AC.241/27	Final text of the Convention
A/AC.241/29	Work programme for the interim period and preparation for the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/30	Compilation of information on implementation of the resolution on urgent measures for Africa
A/AC.241/30add.1	" "
A/AC.241/31	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds

INCD resolutions:

Resolution 5/1	Urgent action for Africa
Resolution 5/2	Interim arrangements
Resolution 6/1	Work programme for the interim period

General Assembly resolutions:

Resolution 47/188 of 2 December 1992

Establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 48/191 of 21 December 1993

Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994

Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

ANNEX II
Tentative schedule of work

Date	Plenary	Working group I	Working group II
Monday, 7 August			
A.M.10:00	Bureau meeting		
P.M.15:00	Adoption of agenda and organization of work; introductory statements; status of signature and ratification (Doc. A/AC.241/32)	------	------
Tuesday, 8 August			
A.M.10:00	Urgent action for Africa and interim action in other regions (Doc. A/AC.241/40)	------	------
P.M.15:00	" "	------	------
Wednesday			
9 August			
A.M.10:00	" "	------	------
P.M.15:00	------	[Regional groups]	[Regional groups]
Thursday,			
10 August			
A.M.10:00	-----	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat (Doc. A/AC.241/34)	Rules of procedure of the COP (Doc. A/AC.241/38)
P.M.15:00	------	Global Mechanism (Doc. A/AC.241/33	S&T cooperation (Doc. A/AC.241/37)
Friday, 11 August			
A.M.10:00	------	Financial rules (Doc. A/AC.241/35)	Communication of info and review of implementation (Doc. A/AC.241/39)
P.M.15:00	------	Programme and budget of the COP (Doc. A/AC.241/36)	-----

Date	Plenary	Working group I	Working group II
Monday, 14 August			
A.M. 10:00	Review of progress of the session Review of situation as regards extrabudgetary funds (Doc.A/AC.241/41)	------	------
P.M. 15:00	------	[Regional groups]	[Regional groups]
Tuesday, 15 August			
A:M. 10:00	------	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat (Doc. A/AC.241/34)	Rules of procedure of the COP (Doc. A/AC.241/38)
P.M. 15:00	------	Global Mechanism (Doc. A/AC.241/33)	S&T cooperation (Doc. A/AC.241/37)
Wednesday, 16 August	------	Financial rules (Doc. A/AC.241/35)	Communication of info and review of implementation (Doc. A/AC.241/39)
A.M. 10:00			
P.M: 15:00	------	Programme and budget of the COP (Doc. A/AC.241/36)	------
Thursday, 17 August			
A.M. 10:00	------	[Informal consulations]	[Informal consultations]
P.M. 15:00	------	[Informal consultations]	[Informal consultations]
Friday, 18 August			
A.M. 10:00	**Adoption of report and provisional agenda of eighth session**	------	------